

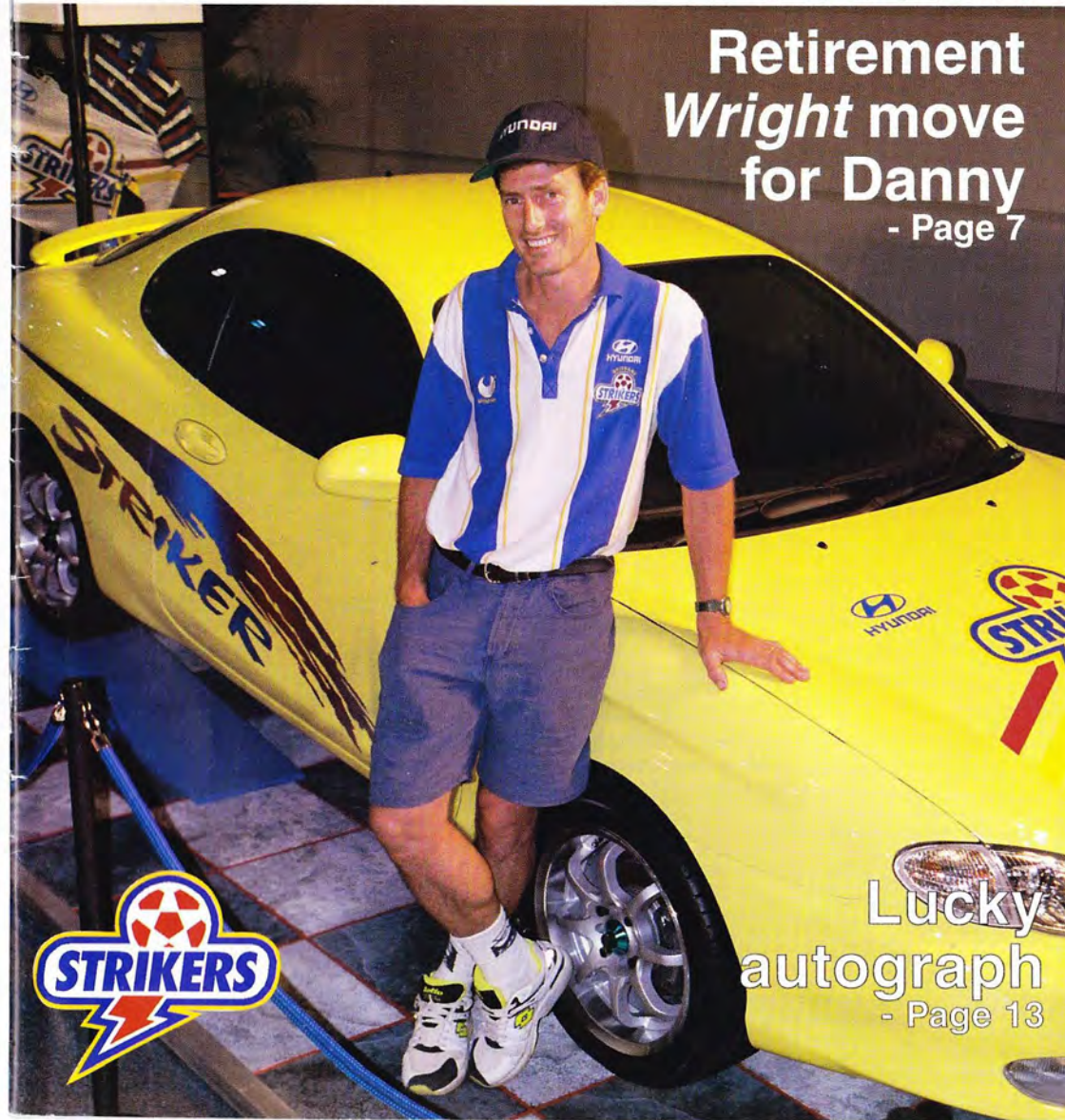
Eye On
STRIKERS

Eye On Soccer is the
Queensland Soccer Federation
Official Magazine

v South Melbourne *Round 18*

Vol 6-9 Saturday February 22, 1997 \$2.00

**Retirement
Wright move
for Danny**
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autograph**
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Brisbane International Motor Show last
week, admiring Hyundai's specially
customised Striker Coupe.

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Coach's Comment



Frank Farina

Hello and welcome back after three weeks, to what has been a roller coaster ride (to say the least) for the Strikers, both on and off the field.

After three successive defeats we turned the corner with a resounding 4-0 win away in Wollongong, which I rate as one of our best wins in the past two years. After some disappointing losses the lads dug deep and set us back on track for a good run into the finals.

A very warm welcome (hopefully) to South Melbourne, who come to Brisbane desperately looking to get back into the top six.

Angie Postecoglou has a quality side and they will be hard to beat, considering the depth of their squad including our former team-mate Jason Polak.

They will be keen to try and turn the tables on us after we inflicted a 2-1 defeat on them on their turf.

But we are also keen to avenge our last home loss to Adelaide City and restore the faith of our loyal supporters, so tonight's encounter should be a classic.

Also, since we were last at home we have added two new recruits in Nick Meredith and Craig Williams, both quality players who I believe will add extra steel to our squad. These additions are especially important considering we have both Sean Cranney and Alan Hunter out with long term injuries.

So sit back and watch your team battle it out with South Melbourne as we go head-to-head nearing the business end of the season.

...Go the Strikers!!

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Classic encounter of two gifted sides

The Strikers play South Melbourne tonight as the race for finals positions hots up in the latter third of the season.

With the Strikers place in the six a good bet at this stage, the team must reproduce its recent scintillating form against Wollongong to secure a position in the top two on the ladder.

South Melbourne is just one point out of the top six and if league leaders Sydney United play to form and defeat fifth placed Marconi Fairfield, a win could see the southerners back in a finals play-off position.

History shows that tonight's match-up will be a classic encounter between two gifted sides.

The teams have met on 12 occasions in the national league, with the Lakers sure to be still smarting after we dealt them a 2-1 defeat down at their place in Round 4.

Brisbane has won five of its six encounters at home while in Melbourne, the score is three-one to South Melbourne with two draws.

Despite the fact that South Melbourne has not won in Brisbane since season '92/'93, it would be a brave pundit who would dare discount a team that possesses talent the likes of current Socceroos Jason Polak, Warren Spink and Paul Trimboli, as well as Young Socceroo Michael Curcija and New Zealand international Vaughan Coveny.

Strikers player/coach Frank Farina said South Melbourne captain Paul Trimboli was one player his team would need to watch.

"Trimboli played well for the national team recently and has been the backbone of



Captain Alan Hunter scored one of the two goals in Round 4 against South Melbourne but will miss tonight's clash due to injury.

their side this season," he said.

"Nick Orlic has also put in some strong performances and he is especially dangerous from set pieces."

South Melbourne has a long tradition in Australian soccer circles being one of only three clubs to have played in all 21 seasons of the national league.

The team has an impeccable pedigree with three league championships, four runners-up titles and four third placings.

Farina said: "They're a good side who have had some results go against them in the past few weeks".

"Considering the events of last week, they might be happy to get away from the pressures of their home crowd.

"I believe they'll come to Suncorp firing and we'll need to be at the top of our game to ensure we come away with the best possible result."





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FROM JANUARY ON

Retirement is the *Wright* move for Danny

"At this stage in my career, it's a highlight to get on the park.... Every moment of every game is precious," says Danny Wright, one of the Ericsson Cup's most respected players.

He paid his dues as a 15 year old with Brisbane Lions in 1980 in the then Philips National League and has since enjoyed a fruitful 17 year career highlighted by 10 appearances for the Queensland senior side, 12 caps for the Australian youth team and a national championship with South Melbourne in 1991.

With retirement looming at season's end, Wright is comfortable with his decision to pursue a career in the hospitality industry with his wife Eleonora.

"It's very pleasing to me that a lot of the guys I grew up with such as Frank, Brownie and Alan are playing out their days at the Strikers," he said.

"We all went our separate ways to further our careers but now find ourselves playing together once again which all makes for a great atmosphere at the club."

Wright was a foundation player with the Strikers and has played four seasons with the team. He is also the longest serving player in the national league.

Danny said he came to Brisbane from South Melbourne at a time when Queensland Soccer was in limbo.

"I was prepared to retire from competitive soccer when I returned to Brisbane," he said.

"However, Clem Jones, Ian Brusasco and Frank Speare got together and invited me to play for the club. I have been very happy with my decision."



The 32 year old started his career as a striker, but the passing of time has coincided with a move to the defensive end.

"I've lost a yard or three so my current defensive midfield role with the team probably suits me best."

In the last couple of seasons, Wright's "Mr Versatility" tag has proved advantageous to his career.

"The modern game demands people who are capable of playing total football, and my experience has enabled me to slot into a variety of positions."

It's this experience that Wright hopes will help him to maintain a position in the Strikers line-up and enable him to once more experience the joy of winning a national championship.

Wright said player/coach Frank Farina has played a major role in the emergence of the Strikers as a force in the national league.

"Frank and I played together with the Australian youth side," he said.

"It's fantastic to be playing with someone who not only is a friend but shares similar philosophies and views on the game."

Danny's qualities as a player on and off the field will be missed by all. □

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Welcome back Willow

by Andrew van der Beek

Craig Williams has returned to the Brisbane Strikers after a successful stint in Singapore and is keen to play a part in their charge towards the 1997 premiership.

"Willow" was an important part of the Strikers historic season last year in which the team made the Ericsson Cup finals for the first time.

At the end of the season Craig felt the need to prove himself overseas and he and his wife moved to Singapore where he secured a contract with Tampine Rovers.

"I had a fantastic time in Singapore and it was definitely the right decision, particularly from a financial perspective" he said.

"It was also a great experience to be able to be totally focused on the game as a fulltime soccer player."

The uncompromising defender made 22 appearances for Tampine Rovers with the side reaching the semi final of the local knockout competition, before returning to Australia during the off-season.

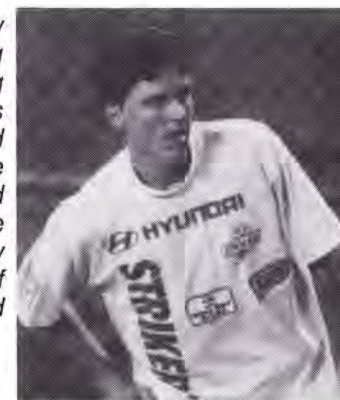
"I had intended to return to Singapore for the 1997 season but a change of management at the club unfortunately put an end to that," he said.

Craig had been training with the Strikers for the past couple of months with a view to securing a new contract, but had been unable to do so due to the abundance of talent at the club this season.

He was then approached by Queensland state league new-boys Bundaberg and accepted a deal to take part in the inaugural season of the XXXX Premier League.

Since then long term injuries to key players including Soccerroo Sean Cranney and skipper Alan Hunter have seen the

New signing Craig Williams should have received clearance to play tonight if required



Strikers struggle through a tough patch, including three losses in the last four rounds of the Ericsson Cup.

The Strikers approached Bundaberg in a bid to have Craig released from his contract and have now completed negotiations which will allow him to return to the national competition.

"I have said to Bundaberg I am happy to help them in any way I can but I have it written into my contract that the Ericsson Cup comes first," Craig said.

Strikers coach Frank Farina is pleased to have Craig rejoining the Strikers and expects him to fit comfortably back into the side.

"We're delighted to have Willow back as he will add some extra aggression and experience to our defence."

Craig is also pleased to be back with the Ericsson Cup high flyers saying he enjoyed his time with the club before his stint in Singapore and is keen to play a part in the Strikers challenge for this season's premiership.

"When I moved up here from Parramatta in 1992 to join the then Brisbane United it proved one of the best decisions I have ever made and I'm very pleased to be back." □

Danny Wright changes career direction

Strikers all-rounder Danny Wright, a veteran of almost 350 National Soccer League matches, will be retiring this season after a professional soccer career spanning 17 years.

Danny will have his hands full running the family's new Motel and Restaurant, located at Kangaroo point, just minutes from the City centre.

IL MONDO Motel opens its doors on February 22 and offers boutique, serviced accommodation and a Mediterranean Cafe-Restaurant which is guaranteed to tantalise your taste buds.

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the Cafe-Restaurant opens Tuesday to Sunday for lunch and dinner. Danny is offering a 10% discount to all Strikers members.

Contact Danny at **IL MONDO** on **3392 0111** for your reservations and his tips on the Ericsson Cup action.

The Lakers - A brief history

by Andrew Howe

The year 1959 saw the joining of three strong Melbourne clubs. Hellenic, Yarra Park and South Melbourne United. Of these clubs it appears that South Melbourne United was the oldest, formed in the early 1930's.

Despite big expectations, South Melbourne had a very mixed start to the national league. A low point in Souths' twenty-one year national league experience was 1979. The club had three competition points deducted after it was deemed that import player Tony Turner had not been properly registered with Souths. Three coaches, along with high profile Socceroo players Jack Reilly, Jimmy Mackay and Jim Armstrong all left the club that year, which saw Souths finish the season last.

While we have to go back four years since South Melbourne last won in Brisbane, there has not been a win by any Brisbane-based national league team in Melbourne (prior to this season) since Brisbane City won 2-0 at Middle Park way back in 1981.

Souths did secure first position on the final league ladder (southern division) in 1984. But in this year, a restructure of the national league meant that, for the first time, the minor premier were not champions.

Souths had to win the finals series to be declared true champions of 1984. The club powered through the southern division finals series, defeating arch-rivals Heidelberg in the southern division grand final before a 15,000 crowd. Souths then won out over Sydney Olympic 2-1 in both legs of the 1984 national grand final.

Brisbane boy Danny Wright, currently the longest serving national league player, played nearly 200 games for Souths between 1987 and 1993.

Souths finished all five seasons from their knockout cup-winning year of 1990, until 1994, in the top three. In the midst of this extended halcyon period, a massive crowd of 23,318 gathered to watch probably the most enthralling national league grand final ever in May 1991. Here Souths defeated Melbourne Knights - albeit on penalties - after two hours of intensive on-field action.

A recent move to the impressive Bob Jane stadium has injected new life into the club, after the 'failure' - by Souths' high standards - of the last couple of years. One of only three clubs to have played in all twenty-one seasons of Australia's premier football league, Souths supporters are hungry for another championship soon. □

Brief Statistical Summary of South Melb/ Brisbane clashes in the National League

Season	Final Position	Cup Placing	Avg Sth Melb. Home Crowds	Result in Brisbane	Result in Melbourne
1991-92	3rd (14 teams)	=8th (14 teams)	5300	2-0 Brisb	4-1 SMelb
1992-93	1st (14 teams)	=5th (14 teams)	5700	2-0 SMelb	5-1 SMelb
1993-94	2nd (14 teams)	=3rd (14 teams)	5400	2-0 Brisb	0-0
1994-95	6th (13 teams)	=3rd (14 teams)	5000	3-1 Brisb	1-0 SMelb
1995-96	8th (12 teams)	=1st (12 teams)	6200	3-0, 2-0 Bris (both)	0-0



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Dedication bears fruit

Reece Tolleneare is one of the Brisbane Strikers young guns.

The talented 19 year old striker began playing soccer at the tender age of five when his father introduced him to the Moggill United team.

Last week saw 14 years of hard training and dedication bear fruit when Reece (pictured) was selected in the Young Socceroo's training squad.

After developing through the ranks of Pine Hills, Taringa Rovers and the Queensland Academy of Sport as a junior, Reece hit the big time in 1996 when he gained a berth in the Strikers Squad.

"Getting the opportunity to play in the national league was a great thrill," Reece said.

"There's a good atmosphere at the club and the guys are great to play with."

Reece said player/coach Frank Farina was an ideal role model for the younger players."

"I really admire Frank for what he has achieved in his career," he said.

"His will to win and hunger to succeed are an inspiration to all those connected with the Strikers.

"Because Frank is a great exponent of the game, he manages to create a lot of team spirit by making people feel comfortable.

"He's willing to take a gamble with the younger players and selects on form rather than reputations.

"Away from soccer, I also admire a guy like Stefan Edberg because eventhough he is a high profile athlete he hasn't let it go to his head."

Reece said the most memorable moment of his career to date was the game against Sydney United in Round 13 when he played in front of 13,000 fans.



In his spare time, Reece likes to play tennis, go to the beach or catch a movie.

He is currently studying marketing at Kangaroo Point but for the moment is content to pursue his footballing career.

"My goals are to play for the Australian youth team, then the Olympic team with the ultimate goal to represent my country at senior level," he said.

"I have some relations in Holland and if the opportunity arose I would like to play overseas."

WIN! WIN! WIN! A Night For Two at La Promenade Resort Caloundra

If you purchased your magazine with Danny Wright's signature below, then you have won a night for two at La Promenade Resort Caloundra. Simply take this magazine to the Operations Room at the Scoreboard end of the Grandstand to claim your prize. Please note that the magazine must already have Danny's signature when you purchase it.



- Around the Ground -

■ Keep an eye on the scoreboard tonight as a unique event is very much on the cards. It may have something to do with the recent passing of Valentine's day.

■ Don't forget to check page 13 of your match day magazine to see if you have Danny Wright's autograph. If you do, then you have won a night's accommodation at La Promenade, Caloundra. Just take your autographed magazine to the operations room at the scoreboard end of the grandstand to claim your prize. You must have bought the magazine with Danny's autograph already in it!

■ Corporate visitors to Suncorp Stadium tonight should also check the lucky ticket they were handed at the door, to see if they have won dinner to the value of \$50 at La Dolce

Vita restaurant at Park Road, Milton. Check the messages on the television screen in your box to see if your number comes up a winner.

■ A big thank you goes to everyone associated with Thor's BBQ last Monday night. The event was enjoyed by the Junior Supporter Club members who attended.

■ The Optus Fun Park is designed for the more active children in the crowd aged from 5 to 12 years. Situated on the northern hill, it offers ideal entertainment for the youngsters and best of all it is FREE! So come on gang and check out the Optus Fun Park.

■ I hope you saw the Strikers own concept car at the Hyundai stand during the Motorshow. Imagine owning one of those! All dai, Every dai, Hyundai.

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Contestants will attempt to place a corner kick into the special 2m x 1m **Soccet® Mini-**

goal on the full. If you are the only person to achieve this all season, you will be driving away in a exciting Hyundai Excel Sprint from Leo Muller Hyundai. If more than one person achieves this feat during the season, a special draw will be conducted to determine the winner.

Place a corner kick into the **regular** sized goal on the full and win a return flight for two to Sydney flying Ansett Australia plus a Sanyo Portable Entertainment System courtesy of Sanyo Australia. If NO contestant achieves this, or if BOTH contestants find the target, the winner of the Sanyo system will be judged by crowd applause.



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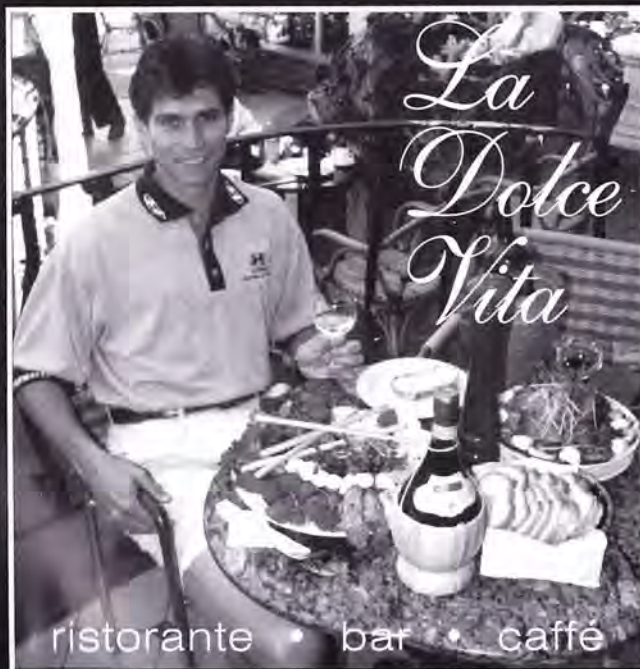


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DAMIEN WAUGH

No 21

Born: 14/1/75

Where: Mundubbera Qld

Previous club: Brisbane City

Position: Midfielder

Nickname: "Warsie"

Game Play -

Best ~ Shooting

Worst ~ Speed

Honours: Qld Seniors

Hobbies: Surfing

Favourites.....

O/S Club ~ Arsenal

Food ~ Steak & Potatoes

Drink ~ Beer

TV Show ~ X Files

Movie ~ Young Guns

Actor ~ Charlie Sheen

Actress ~ Jillian Anderson

Comedian ~ Billy Connolly

Dislikes: Crowds

Like to Meet: Undecided

Ambition: To raise a healthy and healthy family and win a title with the Strikers.

ACTION REPLAY

The Zebras came and stampeded away with the three points..... Andy Brayshaw did his utmost but to no avail. Gazza even tried lawn bowls to confuse them....no good either. Slater was on from the start and bent over backwards with his efforts. Wayne Knipe took on two at once.... Even Brownies touch had dissappeared on the night with our only goal coming from a Mark Battistin penalty. This was one we want to forget!



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B R V H M I T R E V R
R G G L A H S Q E M K
O Z Q A N L N S B B C
B Q S O N D I C O J A
L R E N D J K A K D D
H T O U O C E F I U I
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P F K O K Y E N Z C A
G S F T M S A S I C S

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Bolt Vault and
you MUST
collect them
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JUMBLED NAMES

The following South Melbourne players have been struck by one of Thor's lightning bolts. Can you unscramble their names to find out who they are?

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YENVOC
KNIPS
MILOTRIB
LAPKO
RONLAKSC
TASLIBS



LIGHTNING CROSSWORD

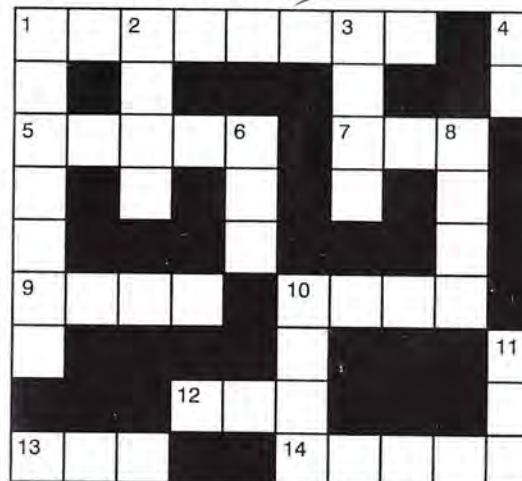
Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Strikers new signing. Craig -----
- 5 A coin has two sides, ---- or tails.
- 7 Carries the whistle. ---
- 9 First name of Strikers skipper. ----
- 10 To win you need to score a ----
- 12 A goal is disallowed if a player is --- side.

Down

- 1 Strikers Young Socceroo. Kasey -----
- 2 The first team to score takes the ----
- 3 First name Strikers No. 12
- 4 The Strikers will -- the 1997 Ericsson Cup premiers.
- 6 The Strikers play at night to avoid the ---
- 8 A yellow card is given for a bad ----
- 10 An easy goal is often called a ----
- 11 If a players puts through his own net it is an --- goal



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AARON BRISTOW

Q.A.S.

Born: 27/2/79

Where: Melbourne

Previous club: Musgrave G.C.

Position: Midfielder

Nickname: "BRISTOW"

Game Play -

Best ~ Versatility

Worst ~ Defending

Honours: Qld Juniors

Hobbies: Sleeping

Favourites -

O/S Club ~ AC Milan

Food ~ Italian

Drink ~ Coke

TV Show ~ Simpsons

Flick ~ Happy Gilmore

Actor ~ Eddie Murphy

Actress ~ Alicia Silverstone

Music ~ Rock

Comedian ~ Eddie Murphy

Dislikes: Cats

Ambition: To get back to soccer as soon as possible from injury

Shades of BROWN...

As you may have heard, Reece Tollenaere and Kasey Wehrman represented the Young Socceroos against Japan recently.

This now puts the number of Australian representative players to come from the Academy in the past two years at five. Other QAS players to represent their country during this time are Matt Bell (U 20s), Andrew Packer (U 17s) and Craig Barnes (U 17s).



Greg Brown

With the success of our U 14 and U 15 teams at last year's national titles, we are hoping to better that figure in the next couple of years.

I would like to give you some news on the ITC funding which I have previously mentioned but unfortunately there has been no news in that regard and I will be sure to let you know as soon as I know more.

It was nice to see Johnny Warren give Chay Hews a mention on SBS during the week. Chay is one year too old for the Young Socceroos but has been a great asset to the Strikers and has been underrated by many. I believe his man-of-the-match winning performance against Wollongong will make people more aware of his talents and it is a credit to all the hard work he has put into his game.

We would like to welcome back Andrew Packer from his short stint overseas. After having spent time at West Bromwich Albion and Nottingham Forest, Andrew believes the quality of coaching and competition here is of a higher standard. I believe Andrew has a big future ahead of him and we'll do everything to assist him to reach his goals.



James Hardie
MODULAR BUILDINGS

QAS Squad

NEWS

Our last home game against the AIS was a highly entertaining match despite the drawn scoreline.

However, our away form continues to be a disappointment and cause for concern.

While I have no doubt that the long distances we travel for away matches has an influence on the players mental preparation, the fact is that we have just not played well.

In saying this, it would be unfair to judge the players as a whole as there have been some good individual performances.

This week sees us with no league game due to a bye and so we've arranged another game with our friends from Toowoomba. The game will give some of the fringe players a chance for their first full game in a while.

We also plan to field some of the potential recipients of next year's QAS scholarships. These boys represented Queensland at last year's national titles and have been training with us on and off since that time.

Unfortunately, one of our players, Ben Cummins (pictured), will undergo surgery this week after sustaining a groin injury against Newcastle which is likely to put him out of action for up to six weeks.

Our next home game in the National Youth league is in a fortnight's time against Marconi. The Fairfielders remain in the hunt



for a semi-final berth and are sure to come here looking for a win, so it should make for a tough and entertaining clash.

THE ACADEMY LINEUP...

- Andrew Packer
- Chris Day
- Duncan Easton
- Shane Steffanuto
- Aaron Bristow
- Todd Rumble
- Clint McDermott
- Craig Barnes
- Owen Filewood
- Stephen Bland
- David Enfantie
- Royce Brownlie
- Darryl Anderson
- Shane Gilroy
- Ben Cummins
- Darren Sime



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The final matches in Round 2 take place tonight with Taringa Rovers out to avenge their previous defeat at the hands of Brisbane City, while Rockville Rovers will be hoping for a repeat performance over their opposition Bribie Island.

The Cup is a new innovative competition involving 18 Under 13 teams from throughout S.E. Queensland.

If scores are even at the end of the second leg, the winner will be determined by applying the following methods in order. 1: Away goals rule. 2: First team to score in the second leg match. 3: Toss of the coin.

The rules of the competition are simple. There are four players on each team with two extra players making unlimited interchanges.

Matches are split into two halves, with the first played during half time of the curtain raiser and the second half played during the break in the main game.

There are no goalkeepers so handling of the ball is illegal.

No more than one defender at a time can be positioned inside his own penalty arc but any number of attacking players are allowed in the arc and there is no offside rule.

Coca-Cola Cup Draw

Sat 19/10/96	Brisbane Lions	v	Ridge Hills	4-1
	John Paul Coll	v	North Star	2-19
Sat 26/10/96	Beerwah-Glass	v	Ipsw St Helens	2-4
	Palm Beach	v	Pine Hills "C"	15-2
Sat 9/11/96	Mitchelton	v	Nambour Reds	0-4
	Pine Hills "B"	v	Logan City Kings	0-3
Sat 23/11/96	Bribie Island	v	Rockville Rovers	3-7
	Brisbane City	v	Taringa Rovers	5-4
Sat 7/12/96	Bilambil	v	Pine Hills "A"	3-3
	Ridge Hills	v	Brisbane Lions	1-4
Sat 21/12/96	North Star	v	John Paul Collg.	9-2
	Ipsw St Helens	v	Beerwah Glass	1-5
Sat 4/1/97	Pine Hills "C"	v	Palm Beach	3-6
	Nambour Reds	v	Mitchelton	0-0
Sat 1/2/97	Logan City Kings	v	Pine Hills "B"	3-6
	Pine Hills "A"	v	Bilambil	4-2
Sat 22/2/97	Taringa Rovers	v	Brisbane City	
	Rockville Rovers	v	Bribie Island	
Sat 8/3/97	Second Round Playoff & Quarter Finals			
Sat 22/3/97	Quarter Finals			
Sat 5/4/97	Semi Finals			
Sun 20/4/97	Final & Third Place Playoff			



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Strike Squad *NEWS*

by Thor

Back on track

After a couple of losses the boys really got back on track last Friday with an emphatic 4-0 victory over the Wolves.

Tonight we really have to keep up the momentum and support the team as vocally as ever if we want to see the Grand Final at Suncorp.

It is great to see and hear the crowd getting into the atmosphere from all over the stadium. With several Strike Squad stalwarts leading the change to a more spread out support base, we should be able to get the crowd more involved and consequently spur the players on to even greater heights.

Thor's BBQ

It was very gratifying to see so many of the Junior Supporter's Club members turn out on Monday evening for Thor's BBQ.

With the Strikers training at Perry Park that night it was thought that a BBQ for all the junior members at the same venue would help introduce them to the players in a relaxed atmosphere.

I believe this type of function for the juniors is a great way to encourage more supporters along to games as I feel sure that all the schools attended by these kids will be buzzing this week with stories of how they met the stars.

I must take this opportunity to thank Frank Farina and Peter Tokesi for taking time out from their busy training session to allow the players to meet the future stars of the game in this state.

I know all the children, and the adults too, were very excited and happy to meet their heroes.

Welcome Nick & Craig

As most of you already know, the Strikers have made two new signings this week.

The first is Nick Meredith, a Queenslander who has been plying his trade in the south for the last few years. Nick will be instantly recognisable to you as he sports the "chrome dome" look and has been prominent on television on a number of occasions for his tremendous runs from midfield and explosive shooting while with UTS Olympic.

The second is Craig Williams, a favourite with the Strike Squad in his previous stint with team. Craig has been playing overseas and we know the added experience he has gained will soon make him one of our favourites again. Craig's powerful stopping ability and flair for the timely pass should add another dimension to the Strikers defence.

We need to welcome both these players to Suncorp Stadium in the best possible way and come up with a couple of new chants for the lads. So let's get our thinking caps on and increase our repertoire with these new songs.

Banners and hats

I must thank all you crazy supporters who have been trying to get involved with the funny hat and sign idea. It was great to see so many hats and wigs at the last game. A special mention must go to the lads at the southern end of the grandstand who had a giant sign which read "THOR'S A LEGEND". I was really taken aback by this sign and appreciate the sentiment. (Of course I totally agree with it!) □

The beer for here.



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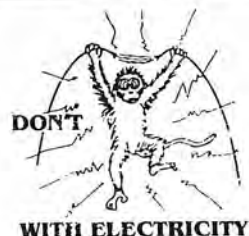
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Eye on Strikers Tables

ERICSSON CUP

As at 16 February	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SYDNEY UNITED	17	12	3	2	46	21	39
STRIKERS	17	10	2	5	36	24	32
ADELAIDE CITY	17	7	7	3	22	13	28
PERTH GLORY	17	8	3	6	34	26	27
MARCONI FAIRFIELD	17	8	3	6	25	22	27
WEST ADELAIDE	17	8	2	7	27	29	26
SOUTH MELBOURNE	17	7	4	6	20	15	25
WOLLONGONG CITY	17	6	7	4	25	25	25
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	17	5	5	7	21	21	20
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	18	4	8	6	29	30	20
UTS OLYMPIC	16	5	4	7	21	28	19
COLLINGWOOD	16	3	7	6	15	28	16
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	17	3	4	10	16	31	13
CANBERRA COSMOS	18	1	5	12	16	40	8

THIS WEEK'S OTHER ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

FRI FEB 21	Newcastle v Wollongong City
SAT FEB 22	Canberra Cosmos v Perth Glory
SAT FEB 22	Gippsland Falcons v UTS Olympic
SUN FEB 23	Adelaide City v Melbourne Knights
SUN FEB 23	Collingwood v West Adelaide
SUN FEB 23	Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield

NEXT WEEK'S ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

FRI FEB 28	South Melbourne v Wollongong City
SAT MAR 1	Marconi Fairfield v Adelaide City
SAT MAR 1	Canberra Cosmos v Newcastle
SUN MAR 2	Perth Glory v Collingwood Warriors
SUN MAR 2	Melbourne Knights v STRIKERS
SUN MAR 2	UTS Olympic v Sydney United
SUN MAR 2	West Adelaide v Gippsland Falcons

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

As at 17 February	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SYDNEY UNITED	14	8	4	2	32	13	28
WOLLONGONG CITY	15	8	4	3	36	24	28
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	14	9	0	5	32	19	27
UTS OLYMPIC	13	8	2	3	32	18	26
MARCONI FAIRFIELD	12	8	1	3	14	8	25
AUST. INST. SPORT	13	7	3	3	24	12	24
NSW INST. SPORT	14	7	0	7	23	27	21
SYDNEY UNITED COLTS	14	6	1	7	20	20	19
QAS	15	4	2	9	27	28	14
ACT ACAD. SPORT	13	3	1	9	14	30	10
MARCONI F'FIELD COLTS	13	3	0	10	13	33	9
UTS OLYMPIC COLTS	13	2	0	11	10	41	6

ERICSSON CUP HOT SHOTS

David Zdrilic	Sydney Utd	14
Ante Milicic	Sydney Utd	12
Bobby Despotovski	Perth Glory	10
Rod Brown	STRIKERS	9
Jimmy Tsekinis	West Adelaide	9
Frank Farina	STRIKERS	8
Ice Kutlesovski	Melb. Knights	8
Norman Tome	UTS Olympic	8
Paul Strudwick	Perth Glory	7
Vasili Kalogeracos	Perth Glory	7
Adrian Cervinski	Melb. Knights	6
Nick Joseski	Wollongong	6

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Seven Nightly News**

Legend: ▲ = Played - S = Substitute - O = Non playing substitute ♦ = Own Goal in scoreline

with Alan Hunter



The last few weeks have been frustrating to say the least but all going to plan, I hope to return for our next home match against Marconi Fairfield on Saturday, March 3.

On a more positive note, it was great to see the lads come away with an emphatic four nil result against Wollongong last week.

It's always a tough match down at Wollongong and in light of our recent form, the win will do wonders for the confidence of the team.

Troy Cranney's double, which I might add was the first of his national league career, was a real highlight with Rod's and Frank's goals edging them closer to their respective milestones.

Brownie needs just five more to equal John Kosmina's national league record of 133 goals, while Frank has scored 97 goals in his national league career.

While on the subject of Frank, a lot of the credit for our success this year must go to him. He is an excellent coach as he has managed to mould the guys into a cohesive unit whilst allowing players to maintain a degree of individuality.

Frank has also given the youngsters in our squad such as Chay Hews, Matt Bell and Reece Tolleneare the opportunity to shine and they have been performing well at the top level.

Jason Polak
pictured last
season in his
Strikers strip.
Tonight he
wears the blue
and white of
South
Melbourne



The success of our young Strikers not only proves the value of setting high standards but also encourages others like Damien Waugh, who made his debut last week, to aspire to these standards.

What this all means is that the more established players in the club, which obviously includes myself, are having to work very hard to prove ourselves worthy of a spot in the starting line-up.

With the finals just around the corner, it's great to see that every player is wanting to perform to the best of his ability.

On a final note, I'd like to wish our old mate Jason Polak the best of luck for tonight's match. I'm sure he will appreciate the style of our supporters after the ugly incident involving South Melbourne supporters in the game against Adelaide City a week ago.

This sad affair has scared our great game and I hope the authorities take the necessary action against the perpetrators.

Luckily here in Brisbane, we experience match days suited for the whole family that allows us to enjoy our world game! □

13 13 00
(flies you anywhere in Australia.)



ANSETTA AUSTRALIA



ERICSSON CUP 1996/97



BRISBANE STRIKERS

- 1 Clint Bolton - FO
- 2 Glenn Gwynne
- 3 Matthew Bell - YS
- 4 Alan Hunter - FS (C)
- 5 Brad Ditton - FYS
- 6 Gary Phillips
- 7 Frank Farina - FS
- 8 Sean Cranney - S
- 9 Rod Brown - FS
- 10 Danny Wright - FYS
- 11 Troy Cranney - FYS
- 12 Mark Battistin
- 13 Vedran Becirbegovic - OI
- 14 Wayne Knipe
- 15 Andrew Brayshaw
- 16 Chay Hews
- 17 Kasey Wehrman
- 18 Jeromy Harris
- 19 Reece Tollenaere - YS
- 20 Graham Ross
- 21 Damien Waugh
- 22 Craig Williams
- 23 Chris Slater
- 24 Nick Meridith
- Coach - Frank Farina

SOUTH MELBOURNE

- 1 Michael Petkovic
- 3 Nick Orlic - FO
- 4 Alexander Kuzmanovic
- 5 Con Blatsis
- 6 Jason Polak - S
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveny - OI
- 9 Paul Trimboli - (C)
- 10 Warren Spink - S
- 11 Steve Iosifidis
- 12 Bill Damianos
- 13 David Clarkson
- 14 Michael Petersen - FS
- 15 Tansel Baser - FYS
- 16 (Not allocated)
- 17 Daniel Allsopp - FYS
- 18 Michael Curcija - YS
- 19 Robert Liparoti
- 20 (Not allocated)
- 23 Ivan Kelic
- 25 Fausto De Amicis - S
- Coach - Angie Postecoglou

Legend: O - Olyroo, YS - Young Soccerroo, S - Soccerroo, FS - Former Soccerroo,
FYS - Former Young Soccerroo, FO - Former Olyroo, OI - Other International



The Strikers



1 Clint BOLTON



2 Glenn GWYNNE



3 Matthew BELL



4 Alan HUNTER



5 Brad DITTON



6 Gary PHILLIPS



7 Frank FARINA



8 Sean CRANNEY



9 Rod BROWN



10 Danny WRIGHT



11 Troy CRANNEY



12 Mark BATTISTIN



13 Vedran BECIRBEGOVIC



14 Wayne KNIPE



15 Andrew BRAYSHAW



16 Chay HEWS



17 Kasey WEHRMAN



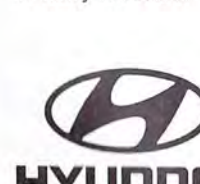
18 Jeromy HARRIS



19 Reece TOLLENAERE



20 Graham ROSS



21 Damien WAUGH



23 Chris SLATER



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